

Scholars end seminar on Islamic finance systems

IRBID (Petra) — A four-day symposium on financial administration in the Islamic era, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, concluded on Wednesday at Yarmouk University and issued its recommendations.

The symposium stressed the necessity of teaching Islamic economics at the B.A. and post graduate levels at Islamic universities and institutes. Participants also praised the post graduate study programme in Islamic economics taught at Yarmouk University's Islamic Studies Centre. They also called for continued

encouragement for scientific research in Islamic economics and its contemporary applications to help find solutions to the economic problems facing the Islamic World. The participants also requested that the university's Islamic Studies Centre hold an annual seminar on Islamic economy and its contemporary applications.

The recommendations also pointed out that the financial system in Islam is comprehensive and rich in its ideas and principles which are suitable as the basis for organising the financial affairs of a contemporary state.

East German minister of higher education ends visit

RAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education in the German Democratic Republic Professor Hans Joachim Baume ended his four-day visit to the Syrian capital of Damascus, winding up a four-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and a number of senior officials.

Prof. Baume said that his talks with Jordanian officials emphasised the two countries' common interest in solving the conflict in

the Middle East and holding an international conference for Middle East peace. He added that he discussed a number of issues to strengthen and bolster cooperation in education fields as well as bilateral relations and the exchange of experience.

Prof. Baume earlier Wednesday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Yarmouk University in Irbid where he met with their presidents and was briefed on their present and future plans.

Hungarian official discusses cooperation in water, sewerage

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali Wednesday met with Hungarian Deputy Secretary of State for Water Affairs Antal Kovacs who arrived here Tuesday at the head of a delegation on a six-day visit to Jordan. Talks during the meeting, which was attended by Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mubammad Saleh Al Kellani, dealt with existing cooperation between the two countries and means of further promoting this coordination, especially in water related fields.

Talks between the Jordanian and Hungarian sides began on Wednesday at the WAJ to discuss scopes of cooperation between the two countries in water and sewerage fields. During the talks, co-chaired by Mr. Kellani and Mr. Kovacs, the two sides also discussed cooperation in the transfer of technical information.

about water and sewerage between concerned corporations in the two countries and training in water technologies as well as the exchange of experience.

They also discussed holding joint lectures and seminars between the two water authorities of the two countries and the possibility of benefiting from Hungarian expertise in this field. The WAJ president also outlined the projects being carried out by the authority to improve the standard of water services in the country. The Hungarian official expressed his country's readiness to offer technical consultancy services to the WAJ to support its projects.

Later on Wednesday, the Hungarian delegation visited the water treatment stations in Khirbat Al Samra and Jerash where they were briefed on the work of these stations.

Planning official briefs Danish team on development schemes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning Ziyad Fariz Wednesday met with a visiting Danish trade team and briefed its members on Jordan's five-year development scheme and the projects to be implemented from now until 1990.

He also spoke about measures undertaken by the government to create a suitable atmosphere for stimulating the national economy and encouraging investments in the Kingdom.

Dr. Fariz urged the team to help adjust the trade balance between Jordan and Denmark, which is now clearly in the latter's favour, by importing more Jordanian phosphates and fertilisers.

The Danish team had already met with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud who spoke about his ministry's projects within the 1986-1990 five-year plan. The team also met Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher who outlined Jordan's drive to encourage foreign investments in the Kingdom.

The leader of the delegation, Poul Sondergaard, earlier said that Denmark was seeking ways and means of boosting cooperation with Jordan by setting up joint ventures and increasing the volume of bilateral trade. Mr. Sondergaard said that it was premature to identify areas for possible cooperation, but noted that fruit processing, agricultural industries and other related fields would figure high as prospective projects.

Italy supports hearing centre, rehabilitation programme with JD 658,000 grant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Jordan, represented by Mr. Khalid Al Haj Hassan, minister of labour and social development, and the government of Italy, represented by Dr. Luigi Amaduzzi, Italian ambassador to Jordan, Wednesday signed a three year cooperation protocol under which Italy will grant Jordan 2,435 million lire (JD 658,000) to finance technical assistance programme with the Queen Alia Hearing and Speech Centre, according to a press release issued by the Italian Embassy in Amman.

The programme aims at de-

veloping an overall health policy for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of speech and hearing disorders in children by means of: the early singling out of risk subject; clinical examination of doubtful cases; drafting and development of rehabilitation programmes aimed specifically at children of developing age; training and refresher courses for social and health-related workers and the promotion of social and health related information activities.

Within the framework, the Italian contribution shall consist of: technical and scientific coordination of cooperation activities and supervision of programme's implementation; sending of expert personnel; arrangement of on the job training courses and refresher seminars; granting scholarships; supply of scientific equipment required for the prevention diagnosis and rehabilitation units set up at the centre.

The protocol is an extension of a previous one signed in 1982 and completed few months ago, financed with a grant of 1560 million lire (JD 421,000) by the Italian Department of Cooperation and Development, the release said.

Local potatoes take over the market from imports

JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — The application of the agricultural patterns system in Jordan and cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers has led to self-sufficiency in certain types of vegetables and fruit in the Kingdom, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said on Wednesday.

He said that potatoes, which Jordan used to import in great quantities as recently as last year, are now produced in abundance here and there is even a surplus for export.

The minister was addressing a ceremony for opening an exhibition of locally grown potatoes which was organised at the University of Jordan's farm in the Jordao Valley region. Mr. Hmoud urged farmers to direct their attention towards the production of carrots which he said Jordan still imports in large quantities.

The Ministry of Agriculture's policies are intended to encourage people and merchants to reduce their imports of vegetables and fruits as much as possible, and to continue to help local farmers increase their production, Mr. Hmoud added. He said that farmers ought to diversify

their products so that they can always find markets for the different items either in Jordan or abroad.

The exhibition is designed to display different strains of potatoes which have been locally produced and to orient farmers on these varieties. Advisors at the exhibition will also guide farmers on production methods and instruct them on means of keeping their crops free from diseases and indigenous pests.

In addition to different types of potatoes, the exhibition also displays agricultural implements and chemical products used in combating diseases and pests.

A number of university students and teachers attending the opening ceremony presented a briefing on the items on display and also spoke about the major diseases affecting the production of potatoes. Dr. Mahmoud Dweiri, dean of the university's Faculty of Agriculture, said the plans have been made to set up similar exhibitions displaying different vegetables and fruit produced in the country. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi was among the officials present at the ceremony.

Regional talks tackle costs of production in poultry industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-day regional symposium on the poultry industry ended in Amman on Wednesday and issued recommendations that measures be taken to reduce the costs of producing animal feed in order for countries of the region to market their products at a lower cost.

A statement issued at the end of the final session said that efforts should be made to employ local materials and the national workforce and to benefit from national poultry training centres in a drive to reduce the cost of producing poultry meat and table eggs. The statement, read out by Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khazraji, director of the Jordan-based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East, said that the meeting recommended that modern poultry slaughter houses, grading centres and centres for marketing eggs as well as the creation of cooperatives should be encouraged.

The production of poultry meat and table eggs should be rationalised and geared to local consumption as the first steps towards organising the poultry industry in the region, the statement said.

The statement urged various parties involved in the poultry industry to introduce computers into poultry production operations and also to increase their dependence on modern means of combating diseases which affect poultry and birds, and to employ standard specifications in controlling quality.

According to Dr. Khazraji, 18 working papers were discussed at the meeting, most of them dealing with means of reducing production costs and organising the marketing of products. Delegates from 12 Near Eastern countries took part in the meeting, Dr. Khazraji added.

The Italian government contributed towards the establishment of the regional training centre in Jordan, and the Jordanian government provided the land and buildings for the project.

Chinese envoy lauds ties with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Ambassador in Amman Chang Jin has paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein, the people and the government of Jordan and praised the existing ties of friendship between Jordan and China. He said that the leaders of the two countries always worked towards supporting and bolstering bilateral relations.

Mr. Jin made his comment during a dinner banquet which he hosted Tuesday at the Chinese Embassy on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Jordan and China. He added that China support His Majesty's call for holding an international conference on Middle East peace under U.N. auspices and with the participation of all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. China will continue to cooperate with Jordan and other Arab countries to achieve the aspired goals, the ambassador said.

Acting Foreign Minister Thounkan Al Hindawi also delivered a speech in which he paid tribute to relations between the two countries in various fields. He also expressed Jordan's satisfaction with China's stands towards just Arab causes, at the top of which is the peace issue in the Middle East region.

The banquet was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Court Minister Adnan Abu-Odeh, the acting foreign minister and a number of ministers and senior officials.

Transport Ministry takes steps to boost cargo handling at Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport has introduced measures designed to encourage more exports and imports via Aqaba port and has reduced fees on loading and unloading goods from vessels docking at the port to achieve that goal, Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhqan announced on Wednesday.

He said that as a result of the ministry's measures, exports of national products — mostly phosphates and potash — increased from 898,225 tonnes in 1985 to 1,125,216 tonnes in 1986 for potash; and from 4,125,216 tonnes to 5,197,665 tonnes for phosphates during the same period. Also, the number of vessels docking at the harbour increased from 2,671 in 1985 to 2,677 in 1986, the minister noted.

Mr. Dakhqan was speaking to journalists at a meeting in his ministry during which he presented a briefing on various activities carried out by the Transport Ministry over the past two years.

Passenger traffic

He said that passengers coming to or leaving Jordan in 1986 via Aqaba were 839,000 and added that the port authorities are installing facilities at the cost of JD 1.5 million to enable the port to process greater numbers of passengers. Work on this project, he said, will be completed in the coming year.

Railway expansion

Referring to the railway network, the minister said that the country's railways are being modernised and extended to help boost the national economy. A sum of JD 5.5 million has been spent on improving 64 kilometres of the Aqaba railway in order to boost its capacity and raise to 4.5 million tonnes annually the amount of phosphates being transported to the port for export.

The Ministry of Transport has embarked on renewing an additional 116 kilometres of the railway network at a cost of JD 11.5

million and has contracted firms for purchasing 90 wagons to transport more phosphates, the minister said. He said that the wagons will cost JD 1.648 million and will be operational by 1988.

Referring to public transport, the minister said that within Amman there are 431 buses being operated by the Public Transport Corporation which also operates buses on 13 other routes from and to Amman employing an additional 96 buses. It is estimated that these buses transported 86 million passengers during the past two years, the minister pointed out.

On air transport, the minister referred to projects as the central radar system at the Queen Alia International Airport which he said has provided greater safety measures and boosted the national air carrier's capacity. He also briefed the journalists on a number of projects undertaken by Royal Jordanian for boosting its operations and providing better services.

Ministry lifts advance permit requirement for recently-hired Egyptian agricultural workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian workers employed in agriculture and who entered Jordan after Jan. 1, 1987 without obtaining work permits in advance from the Ministry of Labour will be allowed to stay on and continue working for their employers, according to new instructions issued on Wednesday by Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

The instructions stated that the Ministry of Labour will now accept and approve applications from farmers to keep Egyptian workers who entered the country this year without permits. The ministry earlier announced that prior approval should be obtained before the arrival of the Egyptian workers to take up their jobs and the new measure reverses earlier instructions.

According to Dr. Mansour 'Utum, director of the Employment Department at the Ministry of Labour, employment offices around the country will now study each case separately to determine the actual need for the workers and to make field trips to ensure that those workers are actually employed in the jobs for which they have been contracted. Employment offices around the

Kingdom should also open files for each farm to indicate the number of workers employed in the business and to submit periodic reports to the Ministry of Labour on the situation, Dr. 'Utum added.

Egyptian workers, like all other non-Jordanian workers, pay JD 30 to the Ministry of Labour for annual permit fees except those employed in agriculture who pay JD 10.

Dr. 'Utum last month said that Jordanians wishing to em-

ploy Egyptian workers should submit requests together with a contract for employment to the Ministry of Labour for approval. If approval was granted, the forms would then be referred to the Egyptian Embassy in Amman to finalise procedures before the workers arrived in the Kingdom.

He also said that Egyptian workers employed in Jordan before Jan. 1, 1987 and holding permits issued before that date will be exempted from the new procedures.

CAEU's financial committee opens two days of meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — A financial and monetary committee formed by the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opened a two-day meeting in Amman on Wednesday.

Mr. Mahdi Al Obeidi, CAEU secretary general, said in an address to the opening session that the committee was one of the most important and essential pillars of the CAEU, and that its work is closely connected with endeavours to achieve the objectives of the Arab Common Market. The

committee deals with issues ranging from the flow of capital among Arab states to investments, Mr. Obeidi said.

The committee will discuss a host of studies and important working papers dealing with monetary and financial issues and coordination in these matters among Arab states.

The committee, which groups representative of seven Arab states, will also discuss Arab investments in non-Arab states and the flight of Arab capital.

Rawabdeh back from ACO bureau meeting in Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh returned to Amman on Wednesday after taking part in the 26th meeting of the permanent bureau of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) which was held in Damascus.

During its three-day meeting, the bureau decided to extend a 200,000 Kuwaiti dinar loan to the Jordan Valley town of Shuneh to finance the construction of a tourist village. It also decided to extend financial support for Lebanese towns and cities to help them with their re-construction following the civil war in the country, Mr. Rawabdeh said in a statement.

He added that the meeting decided to organise a conference in the coming year grouping mayors of Arab and European nations to explain just Arab causes and to help counter the Zionist influence world wide.

The meeting, Mr. Rawabdeh continued, decided to accept the membership of 12 new cities to the organisation, thus raising the total number of member towns to 340. It also endorsed requests for loans to a number of Arab towns to help them carry out municipal projects, he said.

Mr. Rawabdeh was accompanied by Mr. Anwar Al Hadid, member of the Greater Amman Municipal Committee, and Mr. Fawzi Al Momani, the mayor's adviser.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Unfair treatment

THE Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences' (AOAS) recent decision to terminate the services of 32, mostly Jordanian, staff members impels us to ask about the reason behind the move and its implications.

The surprise decision no doubt has come as a great disappointment to those staff members who had been feeling proud and privileged to serve with an Arab League affiliate organisation. All of a sudden 32 working people found themselves in the streets apparently for no good reason at all.

This action by the AOAS seems odd coming as it is at a time when this organisation boasts of working to develop Arab management practices and lectures on administrative sciences. It has itself demonstrated through this arbitrary measure that it lacks the simplest understanding of administration, which it was originally set up to develop and promote.

The dismissal of 32 staff members, under the pretext of financial problems, should be reviewed with a view to correcting the decision. It is one of the simplest rights of staff, to be given a notice period in accordance with rules and regulations in force in most countries of the world; the AOAS should be no exception. All international and pan-Arab organisations are nowadays encountering financial difficulties, but so far none of them has acted the way the AOAS did.

Well, if the organisation's financial constraints have really prompted this decision, why did the organisation fail to give the laid-off staff a sufficient prior notice? Instead the organisation gave them an on-the-spot order to leave the office and not to report to work the next day. If it was correct that the organisation's financial difficulties were behind the unfair decision, why should the locally recruited staff, mostly Jordanians, be the victims? Is it because our government has welcomed and hosted this organisation, as it does other Arab and international organisations? Or is it because the Jordanian government, despite its very limited financial resources, was one of only two Arab countries (the other is Saudi Arabia) to have honoured its commitment to this organisation?

The AOAS decision should not pass without undergoing a thorough review and discussion. It should receive due attention from the Arab League and from the concerned Jordanian authorities because it represents a violation of and a departure from all rules and regulations governing the relation between the employers and the employee. It is painful enough to be stabbed by your enemy, but it is more painful when the stab comes from your brethren.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King's efforts continue

JORDAN is currently involved in endeavours for convening an international conference and carrying out efforts in this respect in Europe and the United States. In his current tour of European capitals, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's stands vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East and emphasised the need for a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli problem through an international conference. He has reiterated this stand in Holland and Belgium as he did before in other European countries, and is expected to follow up the same endeavour during his present visit to Britain. As an offshoot of the King's talks, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans plans to make a tour of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel later this month for further discussions and more talks on the subject of the Middle East. It is clear that the tour will be in favour of the proposed conference in line with the Brussels Declaration by the European Community foreign ministers. The King's tour in Europe, backed by Soviet support for the proposed conference and the Brussels declaration on the Middle East constitute a very positive element in the preparation for the coming conference. In the American arena, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is involved in talks with U.S. administration officials on the question of the international conference. These talks represent the last link in efforts for convening the conference. Any open and frank U.S. support for the conference would constitute a significant step towards convening it and implementing United Nations resolutions.

Al Dustour: Europe shows more concern

THE tumultuous welcome King Hussein is accorded by his European hosts during his current tour of Europe reflects the deep appreciation of Jordan's policies in general and this country's endeavours for solving the Middle East problem in particular. The great interest displayed by European government leaders in the King's visits reflects deep respect for the monarch and his relentless efforts not only to serve Arab causes but also to enhance the cause of world peace. The King's visit to Brussels and his talks there came in the wake of the Brussels declaration in which the governments of the European Community have voiced support for the idea of peace, coming through an international conference. The King has been met with welcome and his ideas drew favourable response and a clear indication that the European Community intends to put its ideas into practice. The leaders of European governments have heard King Hussein presenting the Arab views about the international conference and the need for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. King Hussein has carried these ideas to the European Community which more than other nations can understand the nature of things in the Arab area due to the close links they maintain with Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iranian offensive expected

IRAN has been expected to launch what it terms as Karbala eight offensive on Iraq at this particular moment; and as expected, the Iraqis are bound to inflict more defeat on the invaders. The Iraqis are afraid of political pressure on them to stop the war and have been disturbed by the continuous turmoil inside Iran and the struggle for power in Tehran. These may have been the two major reasons behind the new offensive on Iraq and their insistence on rejecting peace bids from any source. The Iraqis are still adamant and still determined to pursue the fighting though they know for sure that the Iraqi armed forces are continuously being strengthened and are certain to thwart the dreams of the Tehran rulers. The rulers in Tehran hope with these new battles to forestall any diplomatic initiative for ending the conflict altogether or destroy any hope of reaching a settlement by peaceful means. The rulers of Tehran are pursuing the war in their hope of maintaining their build-up power in Iran and influence over the Iranian people.

Time for progress in Middle East peace

By David Steel

The following article, by the leader of the British Liberal Party, is reprinted from the Jeddah-based Arab News.

LONDON — KING Fahd's visit to Britain last week was an occasion for celebration. Britain and Saudi Arabia enjoy good relations which have helped us achieve considerable mutual successes. Personally, I remember with fond affection my own two visits to Saudi Arabia and my conversations with the country's ruling family. I am pleased to have benefited from their insights into the problems of the Middle East and in particular of the war-torn Palestinians.

One of the more depressing aspects of the Palestinian problem of late has been the complete vacuum that has occurred as far as initiatives are concerned. It is as if everybody had decided that the problem is insoluble and so there is no point trying to resolve it.

Such a sense of despondency is understandable. There have been so many worthy initiatives — the Fez plan, the Reagan plan, the King Hussein plan are but three — yet for one reason or another

they have sunk without trace. But the monumental injustice of the situation, the plight of the Palestinians which has again been so vividly on show in the Beirut camps, demands that the effort goes on. There is a moral imperative on every government, regardless of whether it is directly involved in the dispute or not, to work for a solution — just as there is a moral imperative on every government to work for racial justice in South Africa.

That is why I was so pleased with the recent European initiative calling for an all-party conference on the Middle East.

It has long been clear that this is the only way forward — for it is beyond the capabilities of any one government to unilaterally dictate a Middle East settlement. Much as it might like, the White House can no more impose a settlement on the Middle East than can the PLO or the Syrians or the Israelis. The Americans' unhappy experience in Lebanon in 1983 showed that. Nor can the Soviets.

It is equally obvious that an unrepresentative bundle of governments cannot succeed either. There is no point pinning hopes

on the United States, Israel, Egypt and Jordan hammering out a peace formula. It has about as much chance as one hammered out by Syria and Jordan, or by Syria and the Soviet Union or by Jordan and the PLO. There has to be discussion involving all the parties involved. That includes the Israelis and PLO as well as the Jordanians, the Syrians and the Egyptians. The realities of power politics in the region demand it. Any attempt to exclude a party dooms the attempt to failure. The two superpowers also have to be involved for they can, if necessary, bring pressure to bear on the main contestants should they prove obstinate.

The groundwork for this latest initiative was started by Dutch Foreign Minister Van de Broek when he was president of the European Council of Ministers this time last year. It was perhaps regrettable that when the British government took over the six-month presidency last July, very little was done to build on the Dutch efforts. It was not till this year when the Belgians took on the presidency that the initiative got under steam again. I am happy to say that much of the

credit for this belongs to one of my fellow European Liberals and former president of Liberal International, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans who has worked tirelessly to achieve success since he has taken over as president.

But this initiative will be still-born if the Europeans do not follow it up. We do not want or need another Venice Declaration — fine words followed by seven years of inaction. There is no point in coming up with a good idea and then sitting back, hoping that others will do all the work. Having made the initiative, the European Community must now prepare the ground for such a conference.

But what about the Arab governments?

They too must seize the initiative — and be seen to do so. They cannot afford to sit back and expect others to do the work for them — because no one will. It is no good complaining that other countries were responsible for the Palestinian problem and that it is up to them to resolve it. Such an attitude only damages Arab international credibility. Obviously, it would be folly to

say that either Britain or Saudi Arabia can achieve anything by themselves. But they have major "enabling" roles to play in this initiative, Britain because of its influential position in Europe, and Saudi Arabia because of its in the Arab World. One may, of course, question whether Europe has a role to play. But I think it does, acting in the position of "honest broker."

There remains the question of Washington, which as we all know, holds the key to the Middle East problem. The main difficulty with this initiative will undoubtedly be getting the White House to take it seriously, especially given the presidency's current political paralysis over the Iran arms scandal.

But if there are two countries, one European and the other Arab, to which Washington will listen, they are Britain and Saudi Arabia. Together, we can exert a considerable influence on American thinking — and, even more importantly, on American public opinion. Washington may hold the key, but we can oil the lock. It is certainly worth trying for the sake of peace. Moreover, there is certain irony in the situation that

is worth taking advantage of. The White House is desperate to divert attention from the Iran arms scandal and show that President Reagan's is anything but a lame duck presidency. Mikhail Gorbachev, with a well-timed offer on the zero option, clearly understands this.

If the Europeans and Arabs put every effort toward making this latest initiative work, it could just succeed. The Soviets have given it their backing, the Israeli Labour Party shows signs of coming round to the idea, even the Americans are clearly no longer so opposed. No one is saying that an international conference will come up with the final answer straightaway. That is too optimistic. But at least we would have moved the proceedings a stage or two along in the right direction.

This is a time of possibilities, a time when the superpowers are making gestures of good will for the sake of international peace and stability, a time when initiatives are being made and can be grasped. With the superpowers in a constructive mood, there is a rare opportunity for progress in the Middle East. It must not be missed.

Sweden boosts anti-apartheid aid to southern African nations

By Dick Soderlund
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden has increased aid to South Africa's neighbouring states in an attempt to offset any backlash by Pretoria to international economic sanctions.

Foreign Trade Minister Anita Gradin on March 12 presented to parliament a bill banning trade with South Africa. She said she hoped the measure would induce other countries to take similar steps soon.

But even before passage of the trade bill, Sweden's parliament had increased by one-third aid to the neighbouring states of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in preparation for possible South African reprisals against passage of the trade ban.

South Africa had warned that sanctions would hurt most its own black population and those neighbouring countries which rely on South Africa's economic well-being.

This year, Sweden has earmarked 2.2 billion kronor (\$350 million) for the seven frontline states — an increase of 660 million kronor (\$100 million) from 1986.

The figure is nearly half of Sweden's total foreign aid. The rest goes to about a dozen countries including the Marxist governments of Ethiopia, Vietnam and Nicaragua.

Sweden is one of the few countries that meets a United Nations standard of contributing about 1 per cent of its gross national product to foreign aid.

"We are prepared to go further to meet acute needs," said Christ-er Isaksson, an official in Sweden's ministry for foreign aid. "We have just decided to give several more millions (of kronor) of humanitarian aid to Mozambique, which is plagued by civil war."

Despite public pressure to pass the bill, the Swedish government hesitated for several months before declaring the unilateral trade ban against South Africa. Opponents of the measures argued that it would harm Swedish businesses and their black employees in South Africa and could cost as much as 8,000 Swedish jobs.

The bill passed anyway, enhancing Sweden's role as a leader among Scandinavian nations in opposing apartheid, South Africa's system of racial discrimination.

Denmark last June was the first to impose a trade ban. Norway is considering a bill that would stop oil supplies on Norwegian ships.

Botswana, as long ago as 1979, imposed sanctions against South Africa by prohibiting new investments, becoming one of the first industrialised nations to do so. South Africa has taken no action recently against the frontline states.

But Sweden had feared that the white-ruled government might sever its black neighbours from their vital trade and transportation routes through South Africa in retaliation against international sanctions.

The idea of helping South Africa's neighbours gain economic independence has been motivating Swedish aid to southern Afri-

ca for 20 years, Isaksson said. "The aim, then as now, was to help them grow less dependent on South Africa," he said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Sweden also supports African resistance movements outlawed in South Africa and Namibia, giving the African National Congress and SWAPO more than 100 million kronor (\$15 million) in humanitarian assistance.

Swedish involvement in southern Africa dates back to 1965 and the independence of Zambia and Tanzania. Sweden also supported guerrilla movements in the 1970s in Angola and Mozambique which were struggling for independence from Portugal.

One recipient of Swedish aid is the Southern African Development Cooperation Committee, a regional body set up in 1980 that includes the seven frontline states plus Malawi and Swaziland. Its goal is regional cooperation to reduce dependence on South Africa.

Sweden contributed close to 500 million kronor (\$77 million) between 1980 and 1985 to SADC, mostly for transportation and telecommunications. It has allocated another 560 million kronor (\$86 million) for the 1986-1988 period and the amount could be increased.

Major Swedish aid projects — some financed in conjunction with other Nordic nations and within the SADC framework — include a microwave telecommunications network between Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and nearby states to circumvent South Africa.

New Maltese envoy to Jordan outlines the island's policy towards Arab World

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Maltese Ambassador to Jordan and Syria Dr. John Buontempo has said his government had been working hard over the last two decades to improve relations with Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

He expressed hope that a possible victory by the opposition nationalist party in the May general elections would not affect his Labour government's efforts in that direction.

Dr. Buontempo, who presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Taher Masri last week, said that Malta, ruled by the Labour party since 1971, has been in favour of further consolidating links with the Arab World while maintaining its official policy of non-alignment.

"We do hope that whoever is in government (after the elections) would honour our agreements and maintain these relations," the ambassador said.

The island's foreign policy, according to analysts, could emerge as the key issue in the forthcoming elections. The Nationalist party is in favour of better relations with the west.

Elections for the 65-seat parliament will take place on May 9 after the house was dissolved in February at the end of five-year term.

Mr. Buontempo said that on behalf his prime minister and foreign minister, he had carried an invitation to His Majesty King Hussein to visit Malta. He said he hoped that a government led by the Nationalist party would commit itself to the invitation and "not let collapse what the present

Maltese government did for relations with Jordan."

Maltese Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, a 53-year-old lawyer and a personal friend of Dr. Buontempo, has maintained good relations with neighbouring Libya and other Arab states and also with East Bloc countries, particularly the Soviet Union.

The Nationalists, led by Edward Fenech Adami, also 53 and a lawyer, look to the west for their friends. They are specially close to the Italian and West German Christian Democrats and Britain's ruling Conservative party.

Dr. Buontempo, who is also ambassador to the league of Arab states said his country is mainly interested in encouraging tourism between Malta and Jordan as well as the establishment of joint venture projects.

"There is an affinity between Malta and Jordan," the ambassador said. "We are trying to make the Maltese aware of Jordan's beauty and hospitality." Nearly 75 per cent of words used in the Maltese language are derived from Arabic.

The Maltese ambassador, a medical doctor-turned diplomat, said his government was studying the possibility of establishing a direct air link between Valetta and Amman.

Visas

Regarding visa arrangements between the two countries, Dr. Buontempo said that his government was interested in abolishing visa requirements for Jordanians. He said that the issue was expected to be discussed after the elections. Jordan's resident



Dr. John Buontempo, ambassador to Tunis is also accredited to Malta which, since December 1983, maintained a consulate in Amman with Mr. Yanil Bustami as honorary consul.

In the 1981 elections the Labour party won 34 seats with 49 per cent of the vote and the Nationalist got 31 seats with 51 per cent of the vote.

After four years of negotiations, the two parties agreed that the party with more than 50 per cent of the vote would obtain a parliamentary majority. In return for granting this concession, the Labour party obtained Nationalist party agreement that an election result could be annulled if there was any "foreign interference."

On Monday, agency reports said at least 15 people were taken to hospital, many with gunshot wounds, after clashes between supporters of the rival political parties in the run-up to the Maltese general elections.

Prior to his appointment in the foreign service, Mr. Buontempo, 56, worked in the field of medicine in Tunisia and Libya. He is married with two boys and two girls.

Rifai: Washington talks helped narrow some differences

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli leaders have expressed support for a conference.

Saying "we still have a lot of work to do," Mr. Rifai said Wednesday the differences between Jordan and the U.S. "all related to the role of the conference, the modalities of it, its terms of reference, its scope."

However, he added: "Just the mere fact that we are talking about the international conference, its terms, its modalities, its role, is in itself and by itself progress."

"It is the details regarding the details of the conference and its participation and helping the parties arrive at agreement that is under discussion now," he said.

Mr. Rifai said: "Very frankly, we believe it should be a conference of substance, not one of subterfuge. It must have an ongoing role and not just be a photo opportunity, not just a mere device."

Comments by Mr. Shultz on Tuesday suggested no movement from the American position that a conference must lead rapidly to direct Arab-Israeli talks and have no decision-making powers.

Mr. Shultz said: "We support peace and efforts to get there, and we believe the essential negotiations on the road are bilateral, regional negotiations."

Mr. Rifai said without elaboration that compromise was under discussion. While expressing hope that differences would be bridged, he said there would be no conference if they were not.

Mr. Rifai said Jordan was working on ideas "that will ensure the acceptance (of invitations) by all the involved parties and participants, through this

agreement, we hope we can set up a workable conference."

Mr. Rifai said Jordan expects the United States to try to persuade Israel to drop its objection to the international conference.

The prime minister said participants at an international conference would include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all the Middle East parties involved in the conflict. The external participants would act as mediators but would not have the power to impose any decisions, he said.

Mr. Rifai also said a precondition for participation would be acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

He said the Palestinians would have to be represented at the conference by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), provided the PLO accepts the two U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Rifai said Palestinian participation would take place within the framework of a joint delegation with Jordan.

Mr. Rifai said Jordan had not asked the United States for any new weapons, although there were ongoing talks regarding purchases of spare parts.

Mr. Rifai also said Jordan had been assured by the United States that its arms sales to Iran were "an aberration" and would not be repeated.

Mr. Rifai held little hope of an early visit to Washington by King Hussein but said agreement should be reached to allow one before the end of the year.

Talking to reporters after talks with Mr. Shultz on Tuesday, Mr. Rifai said he had stressed Jordan's commitment to a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Following are the statements by Mr. Shultz and Mr. Rifai after Tuesday's talks:

Mr. Shultz: The prime minister and the foreign minister of Jordan and I and my colleagues have had some very worthwhile and constructive discussions. The prime minister has also been visiting with members of Congress. He is seeing the vice president and others and he is, of course, always warmly welcome here.

The United States is deeply interested always in the importance of finding a way toward stability and peace in the Middle East; this subject has been at the centre of our discussions — how to do it. We recognise the importance, in the end of the parties to discussion in any area in getting together and working out for themselves what they think is appropriate whether it be Israel and Jordan with the Palestinians, or Israel and Syria in the case of the Golan Heights, or as we have seen, Israel and Egypt in arriving at the peace treaty that they have in force.

We have also seen the importance to Jordan, and perhaps others, of an international conference as the auspices for such bilateral negotiations, and we've discussed the question of an international conference in some detail. We will continue these discussions, and we are prepared to put our backs into any possibility that holds some hope of progress toward peace in the Middle East.

Let me say that we are very much impressed with the efforts that Jordan and King Hussein are making toward the improvement of matters on the West Bank. We also recognise that these plans take resources — funds — in

order to make them a reality. We are searching around for ways to find, if we can, some \$25 to \$30 million that might be made available at some early time to help in that regard. And, of course, behind that we will continue to work on the problem of resources.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, let me say that it is very good to have you here and we all appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you and the foreign minister the problems of your area, and we welcome continuing discussions along those lines.

Mr. Rifai: Thank you very much. My discussions with the secretary of state have been very useful and fruitful. We had a frank and friendly exchange of views. I reaffirmed to the secretary our strong commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem. I repeated, reiterated, our conviction that such a settlement requires an international conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, as well as all the involved parties.

Our discussions also covered a variety of bilateral and regional issues. We have made some progress. We certainly will continue our close contacts and dialogues with the secretary of state who is held in great esteem and respect. We will continue to work with him closely. We believe that we will be able to overcome any differences that exist if they ever did or do since we do share a common objective, namely peace in the Middle East.

I am grateful Mr. Secretary for the warmth of your welcome, and I look forward to our continuing discussion to achieve the goals and objectives which we com-

monly share.

Thank you.

Question: Mr. Secretary, does the U.S. now support the international peace conference, or does it not?

Shultz: We support peace and efforts to get there and we believe the essential negotiations on the road are bilateral regional negotiations. To bring those negotiations about, certainly, we need to explore — as we have been with the prime minister — the question of how an international conference might contribute to that end.

So the object is not an international conference; for that matter the object isn't bilateral negotiations. The object is to find our way toward greater peace and stability in the Middle East.

Q: Mr. Secretary, what are the stumbling blocks which forbid the international conference from being convened as soon as possible?

Mr. Shultz: Well, it isn't a question of stumbling blocks; it's a question of trying to think our way through to the setting of bilateral negotiations so that they will be fruitful and can be undertaken in a proper way. And we have been struggling with these problems for some time, and I think the discussions we've had today are helpful in that regard.

Q: Mr. Prime Minister, why doesn't Jordan just sit down and negotiate with Israel? Last year I believe, the King said the United States was not a very good mediator; it was hopelessly one-sided. Israel says it's prepared to negotiate with any Arab country. Why do you need all of these trappings and trimmings? Why can't you just talk peace with your neighbour?

Mr. Rifai: It is not a matter of talking peace with one's neighbour, because we are not talking about peace between Jordan and Israel. We are talking about a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem. That includes the Golan Heights of Syria, it includes the problem of southern Lebanon, and it certainly includes the Palestinian problem which is at the core of the Middle East dispute. So we are talking about a comprehensive settlement to implement international resolutions and those require international auspices.

Mr. Shultz: I have a question for the prime minister. If you don't leave now, how are you going to get to the vice president's at three o'clock? It is now ten after three. (laughter)

Mr. Rifai: I am already late, huh? (laughter)

Murphy comments on aid

In another development, Assistant Secretary of State Murphy testified before the House of Representatives Appropriation Committee on the administration's request for aid to various countries.

Following is the part of Mr. Murphy's testimony related to Jordan:

Despite a record of careful planning and good husbanding of scarce resources, Jordan now confronts serious regional economic trends. Jordan's once robust economy now faces increasing unemployment, a substantial trade imbalance, lower remittances from workers overseas, and a foreign exchange shortage. Jordan depends heavily on external receipts to drive its service-oriented economy, yet worker

(Continued on page 5)

American, Arab doctors discuss AIDS, measures of prevention

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — From west to east, public concern about AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, has been dramatically on the increase. A television satellite link made it possible for several concerned individuals in the Arab World to question American specialists on the disease.

Physicians and officials from the Ministries of Health of Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, and the UAE spoke to Dr. Robert Windom, U.S. assistant secretary of health, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief of the laboratory of immunoregulation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Tuesday. Participating on the Jordanian panel were Dr. Abdullah Ahbadi and Dr. Alaa Touqan, from the University of Jordan, and Dr. Janet Mirza, representing the Ministry of Health. Other physicians and students from the medical faculty were also present during the programme held at the University of Jordan.

According to Dr. Ahbadi, 1959 produced the earliest evidence of the disease, which infects and kills white blood cells, consequently affecting the body's immune and central nervous system. The origin of the virus has been traced to the green monkey in equatorial Africa. Dr. Ahbadi explained that the virus found in the green monkeys is very similar to the AIDS virus found in humans. Stressing that this theory is purely speculative, he said "this virus, probably the origin of our disease."

After the AIDS virus has gone through a certain stage in its development, there is no cure for it. It took until 1981 for AIDS to be clinically recognised in the U.S. "The incubation period was longer than we thought," said Dr. Fauci. In the past five years, 200,000 cases have been reported in the U.S.; half have ended in

deaths. Half a million are thought to be infected with the virus of which 25 to 50 per cent are likely to develop the disease in the coming 10-15 years.

In the early 1980's, 80 per cent of those infected were homosexuals. Dr. Windom said that the U.S. has witnessed a decrease in this figure to 60 per cent due to increased awareness among homosexuals and transmission to women through bisexual relationships. He noted that 4 per cent of those infected are heterosexuals, but this figure is expected to rise to 7 or 8 per cent.

The only control for the disease is education, according to both specialists. Dr. Fauci said that education should stress "safe sex". "The most important aspect is that, if you do not know if your partner has the disease or not, the man should use a condom. This method has proven to be an effective block to the virus and protects the other partner from infection." "We presume education will be an effective means to modify people's behaviour," he continued.

Dispelling previous notions, Dr. Fauci clarified that the virus is not transmittable through casual contact, mosquito bites, sneezing or saliva, although he did recommend that saliva exchange be avoided during sexual contact.

Donating blood does not transmit AIDS, but use of unsanitary needles or sharing needles may transmit it, he said. Those most vulnerable to the disease are people who have sexual contact with a multiplicity of partners and IV drug abusers. AIDS can also be transmitted from mother to child, Dr. Fauci said.

Dr. Touqan said that Jordan was relatively free of AIDS "as sexually promiscuity and IV drug abuse is not wide spread,

French theatre group brings Beckett's highly acclaimed 'Endgame' to Amman

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the Royal Cultural Centre this week is a rare chance to see Samuel Beckett's highly acclaimed "Endgame". Performed in the original French version by the Theatre Quotidien de Lorient, the play has been brought to Amman by the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Royal Theatre Company, the A.F.A.A., Air France, and the Grand Palace Hotel.

"Endgame or 'Fin de Partie' as it is called in French, written in 1981 was Beckett's second and possibly his most remarkable single work. A classic of the Theatre of the Absurd, Fin de Partie centres on the lives of the two main characters, the blind and crippled Hamm and his companion Clov. Engaging in fruitless and repetitive actions, that underscore the meaningless of their existence they frigate away their remaining time, time that

leads only to loneliness and death. With Hamm's parents Nag and Nell who occasionally wake to remind them from the trashcans in which they are confined, the play is bleak and enigmatic, yet at the same time unsettlingly funny. Beckett's precision of style and extravagance of conception marking him out as a first class comic writer.

'Theatre of the Absurd'

"Fin de Partie" and Beckett's earlier and highly acclaimed play "Waiting for Godot" epitomise the genre of "The Theatre of the Absurd". A revolt against conventional theatre, it introduced a new theatrical "language" based on a "more abstract form with concrete images symbolising, repetition and intensification. This type of poetic theatre allows for a more economic treatment and contributes greatly to liberating



Scene from Samuel Beckett's highly acclaimed play 'Fin de Partie' performed by the Theatre Quotidien de Lorient and directed by Robert Mazet

the theatre from the stagnation of elaborate naturalism." Beckett's plays, like those of Pinter and Ionesco, try to reproduce an inner world of human dreams, fantasies, fears and desires while also exposing loneliness, isolation and above all the futility of man's existence and his "inability to escape the 'nightmare' of his living body."

The Theatre Quotidien de Lorient, founded in 1980, is co-directed by two young actor-directors Philippe Froger and Jean Le Scouarnec. With a repertoire that consists mainly of classics by such playwrights as Chekov, Comedie, Moliere, Cervantes and Shakespeare, the company has recently been appointed by the French Ministry of Culture as the Regional Drama Centre of Brittany with the mission of developing culture and theatre in the area. Their version of "Fin de Partie", which is directed by Robert Mazet, who also plays the part of Nag, has already received some very favourable reviews.

Favourable reviews

The Ouest-France writes that in this production "Talent is at the highest level" and that Scouarnec's and Froger's interpretation is "vigorous and sensitive." Jean Baron in Le Croix writes that, "the two comedians, Philippe Froger and Jean Le Scouarnec not only take obvious pleasure in appearing absurd but also enjoy showing themselves as laughable. Mazet's direction" he continues "underlines each character's solitude and the seclusion to which they are condemned."

"Fin de Partie (Endgame) will be performed for one night only on April 9 at 8:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre. The performance will be followed by a debate in French and English on "Beckett and the Theatre" with members from the Theatre Quotidien de Lorient.

Randa Habibi's

Made abroad, consumed in Jordan

SIX Arabic magazines have recently appeared on Jordanian news stands. Some use "sensational" in their marketing strategy, others touch on social and economic subjects. However, all have two things in common: None of them is political and most importantly, although they are Jordanian in content, not one is printed in Jordan.

The reason is simple. The government is not granting new licences for new periodicals. So, any new prospect in the field of journalism gets a "licence" in Cyprus or Britain but still uses Jordan as its main market. These magazines have their customers here. Priced lower than other Arab magazines, it is only normal that Jordanians who have limited local reading material are interested in them. There are lots of reservations about the journalistic value of some of these magazines. One in particular uses sensationalism and exaggerates news and articles to a ridiculous level. But nevertheless, the readership of these magazines seems to be on the increase.

The point that I want to make however is that, unfortunately, most of the income from these magazines is being shifted outside the country because they are being printed abroad. Granting them licences would certainly be more profitable for the country as it would generate income, create jobs in the printing sector and improve the quality of printing in the country through increased competition. If conformity of these magazines is the major concern, as one official put it, then government guidelines for all should be drawn up and licences issued accordingly.

Maybe we will end by having 100 per cent pure Jordanian magazines which would focus more on Jordanian issues and which would also compete until we get the journalistic level for which we yearn.

Rifai: Progress made in U.S. talks

(Continued from page 4)

remittances dropped 10 per cent in 1985 and again last year. The economy is not being replenished by sufficient investments, which have contracted about 10 per cent annually since 1983. Unemployment is about 8 per cent and has been increasing, especially in the youth segment of the population.

Jordan will continue to play a key role in the search for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan's ability to be an active participant in the peace process is partly a function of its ability to meet its basic economic and defence needs. Confidence in the continuity and durability of our assistance to Jordan provides both tangible and psychological support to the Jordanian leadership.

Military supply has been a key element in our relations with Jordan for over 30 years. Our proposal for military assistance in FY (fiscal year) 1988 is \$53.8 million, which includes \$40 million for the military assistance programme (MAP), \$12 million in FMS (foreign military sales financing) credits, and \$1.8 million for IMET (international military education and training). Because of budgetary constraints, our FY 1987 military assistance allocation to Jordan was 50 per cent less than in FY 1986. In FY 1988, we are requesting a 29 per cent increase over the sharply reduced level in 1987. This increase is essential if we are

to continue to provide spare parts and training to support U.S. equipment already in Jordan's inventory. More than three-quarters of our total military assistance would be in the form of all-grant MAP funds, instead of FMS credits, to help compensate for our budgetary stringencies.

Our ESF (economic support funds) proposal for \$18 million will be used to support highlands agriculture, water, sewerage services, health, and technical training projects in Jordan. The ESF level proposed for 1988 represents a slight increase over the \$15 million allocated in 1986 and the \$14 million in 1987. It includes two components: \$11 million for Jordanian programmes and \$7 million for Jordan's recent West Bank-Gaza initiative.

In 1988, King Hussein announced an ambitious effort to stimulate economic growth and improve living conditions in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Jordan's initiative is designed to build on its longstanding ties to those areas and to show its concern for Palestinians there. We decided to make an early contribution to this initiative in order to demonstrate our confidence in Jordan's efforts and to stimulate Jordan's other friends to contribute. We provided \$5.5 million from FY 1988 year-end funds and are providing \$7 million in 1987. Our effort will benefit residents of the Occupied Territories and give them a stake in progress toward peace.

Seminar on tyres slated for April 16

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on energy savings as a result of using radial tyres on vehicles is scheduled to be held on April 16 at the Ministry of Energy. The seminar, which will convene under the patronage of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib, will give the audience an insight into the benefits of radial tyres in rationalising energy consumption.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

Controversy surfaces over society for needy neurological patients

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The charity march across Jordan has created an unexpected, myriad, of criticism. Controversy, was, sparked by physicians alleging that participants and donors had been misled while members of the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients deny these charges.

"My main objection is to the name of the society coordinating the march. It gives the impression that it is a national society while it is a private society to help needy patients coming to a private hospital (Palestine Hospital)," said Dr. Ishaq Maraqa, a neurosurgeon and head of the Jordan Neurosciences Society (JNS). "After the march began, I found it my duty to explain that there was no tie between the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients and the JNS and that it is a private hospital's charity society," Dr. Maraqa said. Dr. Maraqa stressed that he was not against the society nor the Palestine Hospital, but that the society was misleading in its name and in declaring the scope of its activities. He said that if it had been called the "society for care of neurological patients at Palestine Hospital" no one could object. "Palestine Hospital will collect more money on a national level. I know quite a few people who

were reluctant to donate when they knew it was for a private hospital. Their previous impression was that the funds were to help poor patients all over the country, and that it was not just limited to patients at Palestine Hospital," he said.

In response, Dr. Nassri Khoury, a founder of the society, said that the society is a charitable society and was established under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in July 1986 with Her Highness Princess Majda as president.

"The aim of the society was to establish and administer an independent charitable fund to support the treatment of needy neurological patients in a specialised section for these diseases," said Dr. Khoury. The society was formed by a number of concerned prominent individuals who felt it important to open this proposed service to all patients, regardless of their financial status, and thereby the society will cover the expenses of needy patients, who have no medical insurance, at this proposed centre.

Dr. Khoury went on to explain why the centre will be located on the premises of the Palestine Hospital. "Palestine Hospital was the only medical institution to accept a five-year staff exchange programme offered by the University of Toronto and John Hopkins University," he said. These two major neuroscience centres

were sending nurses, physiotherapists and doctors to help train personnel.

"This offer was made to all concerned medical institutions in Jordan. All expressed moral support but, unfortunately, none were able to adopt it, and rather than lose this opportunity we began implementing the project at Palestine Hospital," Dr. Khoury said, adding that once work was started "we received unanimous support from all concerned."

"The society is totally independent from the Palestine Hospital, both financially and administratively, and its services are open to all needy patients under the care of any neurological specialist who wishes to use the services of the proposed centre," he continued. There is, however, an agreement between the society and Palestine Hospital. The society provides patients and the hospital provides medical services to the society's patients at reduced prices.

"At present, most private hospitals turn away patients who cannot afford treatment, and this service is to stop the private medical service from being limited to only those who can afford it or who have insurance," Dr. Khoury stated.

According to Dr. Khoury, no one has to-date withdrawn his or her donations to the march or the society. "Our public medical ser-

vices are stretched beyond their means. Any charitable medical service involves the participation of people for the betterment of our society. If the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients did not provide its services, sadly no-one else would," he said.

Dr. Khoury added that in the brochure released by the society and during the press briefings, the society was very careful to fully explain its aims. "It is unfortunate that some members of the press have not fully grasped the concept and have thus relayed it incorrectly," he continued.

Dr. Maraqa feels that since the money was donated by those who contributed under the impression that it was a national society, "the money should be made available to all poor neurological patients in any Jordanian hospitals."

Dr. Khoury repeated that the services of the society were available to all needy patients under the care of any specialist who wishes to use the centre at Palestine Hospital.

Another objection raised and cited by Dr. Maraqa was: "We do not need training as we have been establishing a name in the Arab World and Europe for years." Also he said: "Palestine Hospital does not have any additional facilities, not even a CT scanner." "Although neurosciences have come a long way in Jordan, they are still in the developing stages.

The need for a neurological centre in Jordan has been recognised for many years. Unfortunately, previous attempts to develop it have not been successful," said Dr. Khoury.

He added that medicine, as many other fields in Jordan, needs some assistance to further its development. "There is no question that we are not as advanced as the University of Toronto in neurosciences, but God willing in the future we will be," Dr. Khoury continued.

Commenting on criticisms about the lack of facilities, Dr. Khoury said: "We do not have a centre yet, but as we work towards establishing one, additions such as a physiotherapy department and a CT scanner are being studied."

Dr. Khoury concluded by

Standing committee reviews plans for Ramadan market

AMMAN (Petra) — A standing committee organising the Ramadan charity market, held during the month of Ramadan, met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat. The committee discussed matters related to the organisation of the annual market and reviewed the experiments of the past two years in this regard.

Projecting Islamic and popular heritage, organising seminars and presenting documentaries will be among the main features of these markets, which are also designed to stimulate the sale of different local commodities.

The committee formed a number of teams to supervise the work of the market which this year will be held at Independence Street on Jabal Nuzha, Amman.

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Sweden's Edberg wins in WCT quarterfinals

DALLAS (AP) — Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the tournaments' top remaining seed, held off a furious rally by Tim Mayotte of the United States, to win 6-2, 7-5, 6-7, 3-6, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the World Championship Tennis (WCT) tourney.

Edberg, the top seed after the surprise withdrawal of first-seeded Boris Becker earlier in the day, moves into Friday's semifinals against the winner of Wednesday's quarterfinal between John McEnroe and Yannick Noah.

The \$675,000 finals, with a top prize of \$200,000, are Sunday morning.

Edberg, 21, the defending WCT finals champion, became the tournament favorite after Becker's withdrawal because of a stomach ailment.

Edberg was on his game early with crisp passing shots, but Mayotte, 26, rallied from two sets

down to even the match with an improved serve and volley game. Edberg, ranked third in the world, and Mayotte, ranked 10th, entered play as two of the hottest Grand Prix tourists. Edberg's '87 record prior to Tuesday's match was 24-2 and Mayotte was 18-3 in this year's action.

Becker was to have played his first game Thursday.

Tournament director John Gardner said Becker's manager Ion Tiriac notified officials that Becker was suffering from the same symptoms that forced him to withdraw from the Players International Championships at Key Biscayne, Florida, in late February.

Becker, a two-time Wimbledon champion and ranked second by the ATP computer, defeated McEnroe on Sunday to win the Fila indoor Trophy in Milan.

England's cricket victory sparks riots in India

NEW DELHI (R) — A cricket victory by England over Pakistan Tuesday in the United Arab Emirates sparked a Hindu-Muslim riot in western India, police said Wednesday.

They said two people were stabbed to death and five wound-

ed in Baroda after Hindus threw firecrackers at Muslims in a one-day game. India is playing in the same tournament.

Police in Baroda told Reuters they clamped a curfew on some areas after tear-gas failed to stop rioters.

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Allen leads Tottenham to victory

LONDON (AP) — Clive Allen, the English First Division's leading marksman, was on target as Tottenham Hotspur stayed in the championship hunt with a 1-0 victory at Sheffield Wednesday.

Allen's 70th-minute strike took his goal tally for the season to 44 and into a new club record, beating the 43 league and cup goals scored by Jimmy Greaves in 1963. Allen, however, needs one more goal to equal Greaves all-time record of 45.

The victory was the perfect warm-up for Tottenham's F.A. Cup semifinal on Saturday against Watford and took the Spurs into third place in the standings, seven points behind leader Everton but with one game in hand.

Lowly Southampton missed an opportunity to pull clear of the relegation zone when it could only draw 2-2 at home to Wimbledon. Brian Gyle gave the "Saints" a second-minute lead but Wimbledon levelled after 55 minutes.

American NBA roundup Cleveland crushes Boston

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday handed Boston a 107-83 defeat, its biggest loss of the National Basketball Association season.

In other games, it was Milwaukee 95, Washington 94; Indiana 128, New Jersey 114; Chicago 116, Detroit 86; Phoenix 127, Seattle 125 in overtime; Houston 102, Los Angeles Clippers 84; and Denver 129, Golden State 126 in overtime.

Rookies Ron Harper and Brad Daugherty had 30 and 20 points, respectively, for the Cavaliers. Kevin McHale had 23 points for Boston.

The Celtics, who already clinched its division title, must win all five of its remaining regular-season games to become the first NBA team ever with four straight 60-win seasons.

In Seattle, Phoenix kept the Sonics from clinching a playoff spot as Walter Davis scored six of his 31 points in overtime, including the game-winning 15-foot jump shot with four seconds left.

Larry Nance led the Suns with 34 points, while Dale Ellis paced Seattle with 35 points and Xavier

McDaniel added 30.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan survived Detroit's roughhouse tactics and scored 39 points in 26 minutes of Chicago's easy victory.

In Washington, Milwaukee snapped a six-game road losing streak as John Lucas scored 26 points and played the entire game against Washington.

Jeff Malone led Washington with 24 points.

In San Francisco, Denver edged closer to a Western Conference playoff berth as Lafayette Lever posted his 16th triple double of the season and burned Golden State by scoring the Nuggets' first eight points in overtime.

Alex English scored 27 points and Hanzlik 26 for the Nuggets, while Warriors centre Joe Barry Carroll led all scorers with 37.

In Los Angeles, Akeem Olatunji had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Houston handed Los Angeles its seventh straight defeat.

The Clippers, loser in 19 of its last 21 games, was led by Tim Kempton with 18 points.

King's Cup boxing enters semifinals

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Boxers from defending champion the Soviet Union, the Philippines and East Germany won their bouts to enter the semifinals of the 18-nation 13th annual King's Cup Amateur Boxing Championships at Bangkok's National Gymnasium.

The Soviets won all four of their bouts, while the Philippines and East Germany each won two bouts in the quarterfinals Tuesday.

In the flyweight division, Prizajnikov Vadim of the Soviet Union outpointed Vichai Kadpo of Thailand 5-0 and Roberto Janiaz of the Philippines outpointed Boonlua Nonlue of Thailand 3-2.

In the featherweight division, Soviet Artemiev Aleksander outpointed David Gakuba of Kenya 4-1 and East German Zulov Andreas knocked out Thai Prachia Dasada in round one.

In the lightweight division, Soviet Khachatryan Samson outpointed Taiwanese Lu Chin Hsing 5-0 while the Philippines' Leopondo Cantancio stopped Indian Dharmender Prakash Bhatt in round two.

Soviet welterweight Ostrowskij Alexander outpointed Indian Seera Jayaram 5-0 and East German Mehnert Siegfried outpointed Denmark's Kenneth Ochieng 5-0.

Graf breezes through tennis opener

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Top seed and defending champion Steffi Graf of West Germany breezed through her first match at the \$300,000 Hilton Head Women's Tennis Championship in under an hour.

A confident Graf, ranked second in the world, needed just 50 minutes to beat 19-year-old unseeded Mariana Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-2, 6-0 and advance to the third round.

The 17-year-old West German, who along with the other top seeds received a first round bye, dropped serve only once in the

match and was never seriously challenged.

In the second set, Graf broke Perez-Roldan three times and faltered only briefly when serving for the match at 5-0. Graf, making her first appearance on clay since the Federation Cup last July, staved off two break points, one with an ace, before winning the match on a forehand error by Perez-Roldan.

"In the first set I was not very happy with my play," Graf said. "I hadn't been on the stadium court yet and I was scared to run on the clay."

Her reluctance to run on the

day surface did not seem to affect Graf's confidence, however.

"Even when I was up I was thinking 'why are you playing those stupid drop shots and fooling around,'" Graf said.

Drivers' protest threatens Brazilian Grand Prix

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Top Formula-1 race drivers are refusing to pay a new licensing fee and threaten to disrupt the season-opening Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday.

World champion driver Alain Prost of France said the "top seven" drivers were united and adamant in their refusal to pay a fee charged by the International Federation of Automobile Sports, known by its French acronym FISA.

"We want to race, but we will not pay. That is decided," Prost, who is a spokesman for the drivers, said in an interview.

The drivers are upset about a new FISA ruling that makes top drivers pay more to renew their so-called "superlicences," required to compete in Formula-1. In addition to a flat fee of 5,000 French francs (about \$825), drivers this year must pay 1,000 francs (\$165) for every point they won in the previous season.

Prost, who won 77 points on his way to the 1986 World Drivers Championship, would have to pay about \$13,500 to renew his licence.

"It's not even the money, it's the principle," Prost said. "The decision was arbitrary, we were not consulted and we will not accept it."

Major Brazilian newspapers on Tuesday quoted FISA's acting President Jean-Marie Balestre in Paris as saying drivers who did not pay the fee by Thursday afternoon would be excluded from Sunday's race at Jacarepagua Track.

According to the reports, Balestre said that if fewer than 14 of the enrolled 23 drivers had paid the fee, the race might not count points toward the drivers' championship and could even be cancelled.

"Another ultimatum. We're tired of them. It doesn't change our position," Prost said.

"We will show up for time trials on Friday," the driver said. "If they don't let us run ... we simply shrugged his shoulders."

Prost said the decision to boycott the fee was made by the top seven drivers of the "big four" racing teams: Ferrari, Lotus, Williams and his own McLaren team.

He cited the drivers as former world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil, Nigel Mansell of England, Michele Alboreto of Italy, Stefan Johansson of Sweden, Gerd Berger of Austria, Ayrton Senna of Brazil and himself.

Other drivers, such as Italy's Teo Fabi and Belgium's Thierry Boutsen, both of the Benetton

team, have said they supported the boycott.

Some teams such as Lotus and Benetton reportedly paid their drivers' fees. But Senna and Boutsen said they would sign statements saying payment had been made without their approval.

Prost said Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Constructors Association and a vice president of FISA, was to arrive in Rio to discuss the licence fee in the next few days.

"Bernie is easier to deal with than Balestre. Bernie is a businessman, you can negotiate with him, you see who is stronger and the weaker has to back down. But he doesn't do things behind your back like Balestre," Prost said.

He added, "FISA can exclude us from the race, but we'll see if they can argue with our sponsors."

Prost said drivers were concerned whether the higher fees would be used to increase safety, which he said was often lax.

During recent tyre tests in Rio, Prost said, "we had only half the number of tyres requested for the guard rails, and there was no helicopter for emergencies even though it is stipulated in writing that one must be present."

He said there also was discussion over FISA's decision to increase the number of starting cars at the Monaco Grand Prix from 20 to 26. The narrow, twisting circuit traditionally has had fewer cars because of the difficulty in passing.

Blackout of Leonard-Hagler bout leads to angry brawl

CLARKSBURG, West Virginia (AP) — The 800 people who packed a Clarksburg Theatre to watch the Sugar Ray Leonard-Marvelous Marvin Hagler fight rioted after the satellite signal delivering a telecast of the fight was lost, police said.

The telecast was interrupted after the fifth round.

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(Arabic)

President Reagan to name USAID head to Treasury

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan will nominate the head of the U.S. programme for Third World Development, Mr. Peter McPherson, as second-ranking officer of the Treasury Department, administration sources said Tuesday. They said the White House was expected to announce the successor to Mr. Richard Darman as deputy treasury secretary later this week. The nomination is subject to Senate approval.

Mr. McPherson has headed the Agency for International Development (AID) since 1981. As Treasury Secretary James Baker's chief assistant, he would be expected to work closely on international economic policy, including the major problems of the Mexican and Brazilian debts. Mr. McPherson, a lawyer, worked in the White House under President Gerald Ford after serving as a corporate tax specialist for the government. He also spent two years in Peru as a member of the peace corps. Mr. Darman, who was considered to have played a central role in achieving agreements among industrial countries on international economic policy, will leave the treasury on April 13 to join the investment banking group of Shearson Lehman Brothers.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6145/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3068/73	Canadian dollar
	1.8335/45	West German marks
	2.0680/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5205/15	Swiss francs
	1.5235/45	Belgian francs
	6.0975/1025	French francs
	1306/1307	Italian lire
	146.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.3825/75	Swedish crowns
	6.8525/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.9150/9200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	422.20/70	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is particularly good for finding better ways to express your special aptitudes. Tonight you find an argumentative aspect in effect, so keep cool and calm.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have fine new ways of putting your talents across. Don't lose your temper after a day of accomplishments.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep the promises made to your family. It's not a good evening to invite guests into your abode.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get in touch with individuals who are nearby and those you have recently met. Arrange to get to know them better.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have clever ideas for making more money. Put them into motion with advice from respected advisers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are highly inspired with conditions from the past and new ideas. Get in touch with people who can help you now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are full of good ideas on how to get ahead faster, but don't confide in others until you have started them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may be a never confined at home when you should be out seeing loyal friends who can help you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get out early in the world of action and be ambitiously occupied so that you can get ahead faster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try a new approach at gaining your ambitions. After a fine day of activity, relax tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Old contacts and new ones can be helpful to you today. Discuss your ambitions with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be with those of fine character and great ambition and you are truly inspired again. Make life more satisfying.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make your environment lovely today. Add articles of beauty and charm. Inspire those around you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have a great imagination and be able to attain a great deal both in standard activities and in more modern ones. Know your progeny's potentials and slant the education along lines that will fit him, or her, for governmental connections.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unsettling problems can be difficult for you to solve, but don't put them off. You have the chance to forge ahead today through any tensions you encounter.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may find that the details connected with your work seem unending, but use patience and all works out fine.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An argument between the one you love and a friend has to be resolved before you can have the fun you anticipate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Home and property affairs may pose problems for you today, but study them objectively and they're soon solved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may have difficulty in communicating with others, but don't throw in the sponge or you lose out.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You seem to be on the verge of disaster where finances are concerned, but make a wise move and you come out on top.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Keep busy in going after some personal wish. You find that an associate can be helpful in your tasks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study the tense situation around you and steer clear of acquaintances who like to criticize you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You find it difficult to get friends to do what you wish today, an depend more on yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Outside affairs require much of your time now. Avoid an altercation between family and associates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan time to study into new outlets. Don't fret over something you have little control over.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can seize a fine business opportunity today, so don't permit others to deter you from doing this.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may be depressed over some outside matter and will want to make dramatic changes, but don't.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be able to do work of a very detailed nature and would be very successful in any type of business that has such a prerequisite. There may be a temptation to make a sudden change at the wrong time, so teach your progeny the value of being steadfast.

Youth unemployment intensifies

GENEVA (AP) — Young people are hardest hit by unemployment in both industrialized and developing countries, according to an International Labour Organisation (ILO) survey released Tuesday.

Nearly half the jobs in several countries are in the 15-to-24 age group, which bears "the brunt of continuing high rates of unemployment," the U.N. agency said. The survey used 1985

figures, the latest statistics available.

Work opportunities are especially sparse in developing countries, where the young make up 34 per cent of the work force, the ILO said.

A youth unemployment high of 73 per cent was reported by Costa Rica. Italy put the rate at 50 per cent, the highest among industrialized nations, it said.

The least youth joblessness was reported by Finland and Greece

at 24 per cent, the ILO said.

The survey said unemployment figures for Africa were not available but the region "probably faced the most serious" situation.

In the Third World, the number of young workers is expected to grow to 1.117 billion by the year 2025 from 755 million in 1985, nearly a 50 per cent rise.

"This will put an even greater strain on the labour market to provide jobs for the young," the ILO said.

Financial leaders see dangers from reliance on weak dollar

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Paul Volcker on Tuesday warned that the United States faced "substantial risks" if it continued to rely on a weaker dollar to correct the country's huge trade deficits.

Mr. Volcker, who heads the U.S. central bank, told a committee of the Senate that further sharp declines in the value of the dollar in foreign-exchange markets could topple the United States into a recession.

He specifically noted "warning signs" in recent weeks of a danger that the dollar might fall too far too fast.

While Mr. Volcker did not spell out those signals, world financial markets were thrown into a turmoil last week when the dollar fell to record lows against the Japanese yen.

Concerns that a weaker dollar would boost inflation in the United States were among the reasons cited by several major American banks when they raised their prime lending rate last week for the first time in almost three years.

"Looking toward depreciation of the dollar alone to improve our trade balance would clearly pose substantial risk of renewed inflationary momentum and undermine confidence in future financial stability — developments that could jeopardize prospects for sustained economic expansion," Mr. Volcker said in an appearance before a Senate Banking Subcommittee.

Mr. Volcker said that the desire for greater stability of foreign exchange rates was a key element underpinning an accord reached among the United States and five other major industrial countries meeting in Paris in February — Britain, Canada, France, West Germany and Japan.

For the first time, Mr. Volcker confirmed that the United States had engaged in "active intervention" in the exchange markets in recent weeks.

Countries intervene by buying or selling currencies in large amounts as a way of influencing their price on the open market.

But Mr. Volcker noted that intervention can be of only limited use in influencing the value of the dollar and other currencies.

"Confidence in the current exchange-rate levels will in the end depend upon perceptions that more fundamental policies than intervention will in fact be brought to bear," Mr. Volcker

said.

"I would argue that the problems of economic growth, balance of payments adjustment, protectionism and international debt are so intertwined today that a failure to deal constructively with any one of them would risk failure across the board," Mr. Volcker said.

He said that there were some encouraging signs that the U.S. trade deficit, which swelled to a record \$170 billion last year, was finally beginning to shrink.

But he said any improvement would be a slow process and to succeed will need to be accompanied by further progress in Congress to reduce the huge federal budget deficit, which Mr. Volcker and others have for many years directly linked to the United States' trade problems.

"What we need now, instead of more depreciation (of the dollar), is action here and abroad to carry through on those other measures needed to support growth and adjustment — specifically action to reduce the budget deficit here, and to provide stimulus abroad," Mr. Volcker said.

The U.S. government in recent months has used pressure against the dollar in an effort to force Japan and West Germany to do more to stimulate their economies and provide world markets for exports.

On the issue of Third World debt, Mr. Volcker rejected proposals made by opposition Democratic Senator Bill Bradley, and others that a solution to the problem will require forgiveness of at least a portion of the huge debt built up by developing countries.

"I do not share the sense of some that radical new approaches to the debt problem are necessary or practicable," Mr. Volcker said. "Indeed, writing down and forgiving debts that can reasonably be serviced would risk undermining growth and stability in the borrowing countries."

Mr. Volcker said there is a danger that adequate financing arrangements are not being negotiated with enough speed, but he said that a country-by-country effort to resolve the debt problem would still be the best way to proceed.

Confirming Mr. Volcker's comment on the value of the dollar, a policy leader of the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday that the dollar had fallen far enough and that other measures should be taken to re-

solve the enormous U.S. trade deficit.

Dutch Finance Minister H. Onno Ruding is chairman of the fund's interim committee, which tries to steer the 151 member governments toward joint policies.

"I applauded the Plaza agreement which launched this collapse, the gradual fall of the dollar at that time," Mr. Ruding said. "But now it has gone quite far and at this time I think the main contribution toward solving these still enormous (U.S.) trade deficits is not repeat not a further fall of the dollar."

On Tuesday a dollar was worth 145.2 Japanese yen, its lowest rate since the late 1940s. Before the Group of Five agreement made at New York's Plaza hotel in September 1985, the rate was more than 240 to the dollar.

Speaking to the National Lawyers' Club, Mr. Ruding said the United States has the main responsibility to reduce its record trade deficit.

Mr. Ruding said the solution lies not in protectionism, but in changes in U.S. domestic policy. "Productivity increase and therefore competitiveness is not doing very well in the United States," he said. "I'm not saying it's doing brilliantly in Europe either, compared with some Asian countries, but that's the problem ... savings rates are too low in the United States and too high in Japan ... these are (domestic) economic policies basically (such as) the budget deficit."

Echoing calls made by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, Mr. Ruding said Japan and West Germany should do more to stimulate their economies. More business activity in those countries would draw in more goods from the United States, and from poor countries.

The Japanese and West German governments have promised to beat their economies, but are worried that too much stimulus in business could bring on inflation.

Pohl warns of 'crash landing'

In another comment, the president of West Germany's central bank, Mr. Karl Otto Pohl, cautioned on Tuesday that a "crash landing" of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies could trigger a worldwide recession.

Mr. Pohl said he favoured continuing a six-nation agreement, reached last Feb. 22 in Paris, to stabilise the dollar.

U.S. halts further cash to Egypt pending reforms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is holding off further cash aid for Egypt until that country implements additional economic reforms, assistant secretary of state, Mr. Richard Murphy, said Tuesday.

The United States gave Egypt \$115 million earlier this fiscal year after the Egyptian government carried out a series of economic measures, including a reduction of government expenditure, subsidy cuts for food and cotton and a simplification of the exchange rate.

But Mr. Murphy said the State Department would not give Egypt any more in cash unless it implements further measures designed to cut Egypt's budget and balance of payment deficits.

"We have made clear to the Egyptian government that there would be no further cash transfers" for the time being, said Mr. Murphy, testifying before the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

Congress authorised \$815 million in economic aid to Egypt for this year. Most of the money is linked to specific projects or to commodity import programmes, but the State Department is allowed by law to transfer some of that money in cash if Egypt reforms its economic structure.

Egypt prefers cash in order to bolster its sagging foreign currency reserves.

Mr. Murphy made his comments in response to questions by panel chairman, Mr. David Obey, an opposition Democrat, who asked whether Egypt was able to put its economic house in order.

"Many of us are becoming increasingly worried about Egypt's ability to use aid as a tool for

improving policy rather than as a crutch," Mr. Obey said.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan is asking Congress to allot \$2.3 billion in military and economic aid for fiscal 1988 which begins Oct. 1. Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid after Israel.

Mr. Murphy said the United States was awaiting the outcome of loan negotiations between Egypt, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

A delegation of the IMF has just returned from talks in Cairo with a letter of intent in which Egypt undertook to carry out additional reforms in return for loan money. A State Department official said. The official said he did not know how much loan money was being discussed.

Egypt already has an external debt of \$38 billion.

Kuwait may pipe oil across S. Arabia

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is studying proposals to pipe oil across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea in a bid to reduce its reliance on the war-torn Gulf waterway, Gulf-based oil industry sources said Tuesday.

They said two feasibility studies were submitted to the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) within the past month by its wholly-owned engineering arm Santa Fe Braun.

The studies coincided with contacts between Kuwait and the United States and Soviet Union on possible military or logistical assistance with oil shipments through the Gulf.

Iran, whose ground conflict with Iraq spilled over three years ago into the so-called "tanker war" in the waterway, has waged a campaign of reprisals against Kuwait because of its backing for Baghdad.

Of 19 attacks on shipping in the Gulf blamed on Iran since mid-September, 14 have been on vessels trading with Kuwait.

Washington has offered to protect Kuwaiti tankers, but U.S. officials say Kuwait has turned down the idea for the time being.

Kuwait, which has its own 23-tanker fleet but occasionally chartered foreign-flag vessels, apparently discussed a similar commercial arrangement with the Soviet Union, Gulf-based diplo-

mats said.

But they said Kuwait had long opposed an increased role for the superpowers in the area and would carefully weigh the merits of accepting help from either side.

The idea of piping oil through Saudi Arabia for shipment from the Red Sea port of Yanbu offered no short-term solution and would prove costly, the Gulf-based oil sources said.

They said feasibility studies commissioned late last year offer two separate options, but combined cost estimates ran into hundreds of millions of dollars and each would take two to three years to build.

"These things don't come cheap," said one oil source.

The first option would be a 150-centimetre thick pipe to carry crude 300 kilometres south from Kuwait to link up with Saudi Arabia's existing east-west pipeline at pumping station number three near the town of Khurais 80 kilometres north of Riyadh.

It would have a throughput of 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) and run alongside a pipeline built by Iraq to move oil through Yanbu after its Gulf ports were knocked out early in the war.

The other option is a 90-centimetre thick line to run 800 kilometres from Kuwait south-west to Yanbu. It would be able

to handle up to 1.0 million b/d of crude and refined product.

"I understand that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have agreed in principle that a pipeline could be built," said one source.

The sources said the feasibility studies were commissioned as a "fast-track" project, under which evaluation is compressed into about half the time it would normally take.

One source questioned the merit of a combined crude and product pipeline, noting that Kuwait's newly upgraded, multi-billion dollar refineries turned out high quality gas oil, kerosene and other products which risked contamination in batched delivery.

"If products are to be exported by pipeline, a line would be needed for each of the main-stream products," said one critic of the dual-purpose pipeline concept.

Naphtha, which often is "spiked" or blended with crude for combined shipment, was perhaps the only product suitable for such delivery, he said.

Roughly one-half of Kuwait's current OPEC production quota of 948,000 b/d is sold as refined product, the sources said.

The share is expected to rise to two-thirds over the next year as modernisation of its refinery complex is completed.

ADCO to slash budget and workforce

ABU DHABI (R) — The largest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO), said Tuesday it would continue budget and manpower cuts begun last year in the face of declining oil revenue.

General Manager Vincent Connolly said in the company's 1986 annual report spending this year would be slashed to around \$300 million from \$450 million

last year and \$500 million in 1985.

Manpower, which fell 16 per cent in 1986 to 1,225 from 1,458 in 1985, would be cut further by mid-1987, although Mr. Connolly did not give figures.

Abu Dhabi, the largest oil producer in the UAE, suffered a sharp drop in revenue last year when world oil prices slumped.

Mr. Connolly said a plan to reduce the number of drilling and workover rigs by almost three-

quarters in less than two years was initiated last year.

Field development programmes at the Bab and Sahel oilfields were suspended and oil production facilities at the Bab field mothballed, Mr. Connolly said.

Oil gathering and water injection facilities at Asab and a new oil gathering system at Buhasa were completed and commis-

sioned.

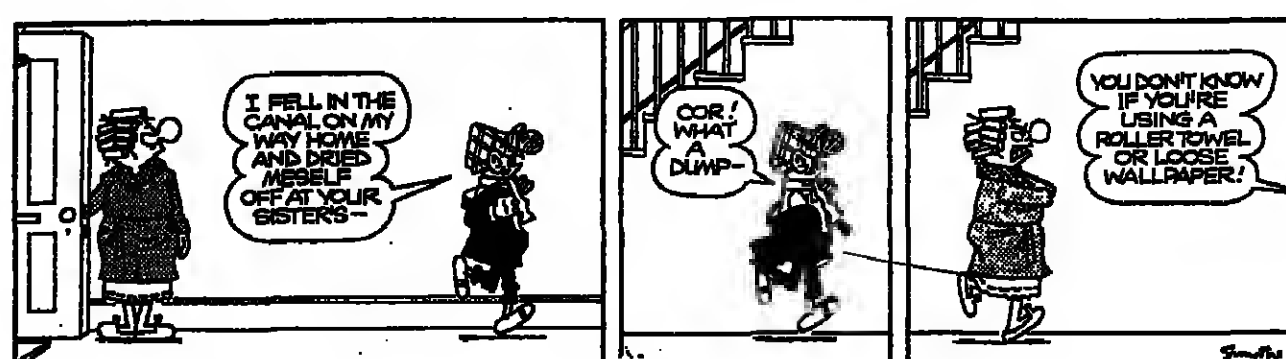
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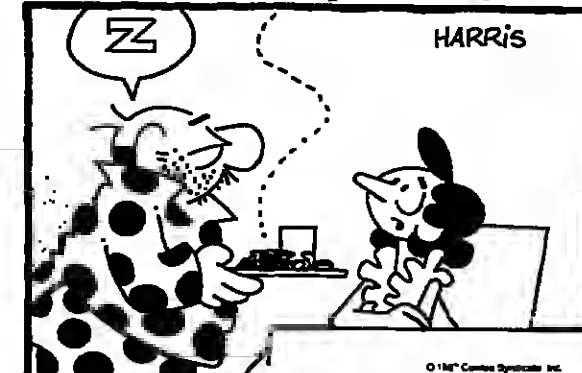


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

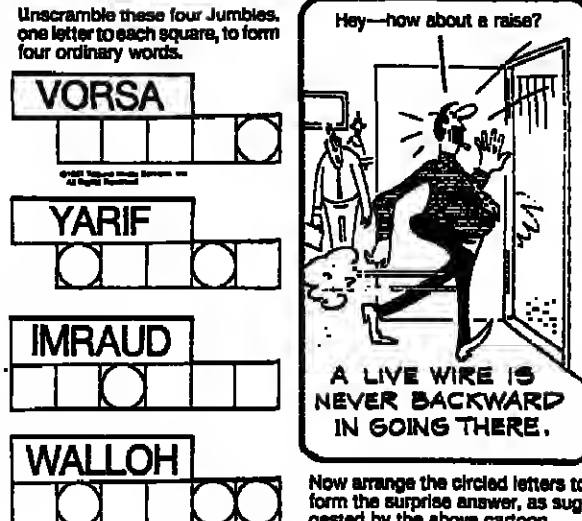
By Harris



"Scrambled coffee? Brewed eggs? Buttered juice? I'll pass!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FIFTY RIGOR MYRIAD INLAD

Answer: Somebody who calls a spade a spade might want to give you this — A DIRTY "DIG"

Divers recover 83 bodies from partly submerged British ferry

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (AP) — Divers recovered 83 corpses Wednesday from the partly submerged British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, and the search continued for more bodies inside the multi-deck vessel, officials said.

Paul Ellis, a spokesman for Townsend Thoresen Co., the ferry's owner, said most of the bodies had been removed and put ashore in the early morning hours.

He said divers later spotted another "tangle of bodies" that other officials said appeared to total about 20 victims.

The recovery effort was to continue throughout the day.

The bodies of 134 victims were believed to be inside the ship before salvage workers righted the vessel on Tuesday, although officials have said their count may be

incorrect due to confusion about the number of survivors.

Prior to Wednesday, 61 bodies had been recovered from the stricken ship, which went down on March 6. An estimated 348 people survived.

Teams of Belgian and British navy divers, working in the early hours of the morning, hauled the 83 bodies out of the upper decks where many passengers had congregated in the moments before the ferry capsized about one mile outside the entrance to Zeebrugge Harbour.

Ellis said the recovered bodies

were taken to the nearby Zeebrugge naval base for identification.

The 19 divers, working in mild weather and moderate seas, continued searching areas of the ferry above the water line on Wednesday in hopes of finding more of the bodies still trapped inside.

Officials said they believed many bodies would be found in the lower decks, which remained submerged and strewn with broken bulkheads, furniture and other debris. It was expected to take at least several days to complete a search of these areas of the ferry, officials said.

Efforts to make the ship watertight and to pump out the water and silt inside were to begin later Wednesday.

Huge floating cranes and flat-

bottom barges pulled and hoisted the 7,951-ton ferry onto its keel on Tuesday in an arduous operation that lasted more than eight hours.

Officials have not encouraged relatives to see the dead. But Lt. Col. Willy Bruggeman of the Belgian state police said: "If they want to see the bodies we will grant that request, of course."

In all, officials said, less than a dozen relatives have come to Zeebrugge.

After identification, the bodies will be taken to a mortuary at St. John's Hospital in nearby Bruges before repatriation.

Police Chief Roger De Bree said the 19 British and Belgian navy divers "face a very macabre situation. They will look for people who narrowly did not make it."

U.S. monitoring Soviet subs in western Atlantic

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and NATO forces are monitoring what appears to be the largest deployment of Soviet nuclear attack submarines in the western Atlantic since 1985, the Pentagon has said.

The Soviet undersea exercise is believed to include several classes of hunter-killer boats, including the nuclear-powered Victor class, according to one defense official, who asked not to be identified.

The Pentagon declined to say how many submarines were involved in the exercise, whether they included the new silent Akula class hunter-killer subs, or exactly where the exercise was taking place.

But it said in a brief statement to reporters that about a half dozen Soviet submarines took part in the last such western Atlantic exercise in the summer

of 1985.

"The submarines, among the quietest and most capable in the Soviet navy, probably deployed from the Soviet Northern Fleet last month," the statement said.

"These submarines are being routinely monitored by U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO forces."

Attack submarines are designed to find and destroy other submarines and surface vessels. Pentagon officials have complained in recent weeks that Moscow has made major strides recently in improving the capability of its underwater fleet.

The officials said the current Soviet deployment was not routine, but that U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO forces were maintaining surveillance and there was no increased threat to U.S. interests.

Chicago mayor reelected

CHICAGO (R) — Chicago's first black mayor has claimed a re-election victory and said his first term in office has helped create a new image for America's third largest city.

Mayor Harold Washington, 64, whose first four-year term was marked by clashes with his city council, said his solid win at the polls Tuesday would put an end to the city's racial and political divisions.

"The whole world is watching

Chicago tonight," Mr. Washington said in proclaiming victory as early as results put him at least 100,000 votes ahead of nearest challenger Edward Vrdolyak. The other candidate was Donald Haider. Both conceded.

News organization polls indicated that Mr. Washington won with heavy support once again from blacks, who make up 40 per cent of voters in the city's population of three million.

\$20 million in contra aid reportedly unaccounted for

NEW YORK (R) — Nicaraguan contra rebels received \$83 million to \$97 million from the Reagan administration and other sources over a two-year period but cannot account for \$20 million of it, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said internal White House memos and interviews with officials indicated that the total raised was at least \$38 million more than the \$45 million the contras said they needed to fight the Sandinistas.

The amount, covering 1984 to 1986, did not include another \$10 million that was reportedly transferred from weapons sales to Iran, the paper said.

It quoted federal government

and congressional investigators as saying they suspect at least some of the money unaccounted for was spent on contra-support activities directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the National Security Council (NSC) aide who was dismissed after the first disclosure of the Iran-contra arms affair last November.

Public assistance to the contras was banned by Congress in 1984, except for \$27 million in aid for the purchase of non-military goods that was approved in 1985.

The newspaper said that in addition to the U.S. aid, major contributions to the contras included \$32 million from Saudi Arabia and 10 million from Brunei.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Japan builds largest particle collider

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has built the world's largest particle collider at a cost of \$7 billion yen (\$600 million) to study energy and the origin of the universe, the Education Ministry said Tuesday. Kasuke Takahashi, a spokesman for the National Laboratory for High Physics in Tsukuba, said the electron-positron collider is to be used to search for the fundamental constituent of matter. He said that search is a key step toward finding new sources of energy and answering such unsolved questions as the origin of the earth. Takahashi said the collider will produce high energy as electrons and positrons collide at the speed of light. In February, William Graham, the U.S. presidential science adviser, asked Japan to participate in a proposed \$4.4-billion project to develop a superconducting super collider by 1996. The device would accelerate atomic particles to an energy level 20 times greater than currently possible.

Pilot plans Miami-to-Tokyo flight

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP) — A pilot who last week set a distance record by flying non-stop from Australia to Arizona is preparing for an even longer solo flight, he has said. This time, Peter Wilkins said he plans to fly from Miami, Florida, to Tokyo. "It won't be nonstop," he said in a telephone interview with the Phoenix Gazette from his office in Santa Ana, California. "I've been asked to ferry a twin-engine Cessna 303 piston-engine aircraft, and it only will have normal fuel capacity, not the extra tanks my (Piper) Malibu had for the trans-Pacific flight." Therefore, Wilkins said, he will have to "make a bunch of stops en route." The flight will start in about two weeks and will require landings in Maine, Labrador, Iceland, the Netherlands, Greece, Saudi Arabia, "and a few other places," he said. Wilkins said the flight will cover about 13,000 miles (21,000 kilometers). He flew the 7,995 miles (12,870 kilometers) from Sydney, Australia, to Phoenix on March 30 and April 1.

TV evangelist accused of defaming God

NEW ORLEANS (R) — A lawsuit has been filed accusing U.S. television Evangelist Oral Roberts of portraying God as a blackmailer and asking that a judge force Roberts to return contributions to any donor who asks. Roberts announced in January that God would "call him home," if he did not raise \$8 million by the end of March for a scholarship fund. Last week, the evangelist said God spared him because his followers contributed about \$700,000 more than the original \$8-million goal. The lawsuit was filed on Friday by two aerospace workers, Douglas Coggeshall and Russell Richardson, who contend that Roberts and his Tulsa, Oklahoma, ministry have been guilty of fraud and deceptive practices by telling people he would die if he did not get \$8 million by March 31.

Randy Travis wins 4 country music awards

BUENA PARK, California (AP) — Randy Travis, one of the new wave of country music artists who have pumped new life into the once-sagging industry, won Academy of Country Music Awards for Best Album, Song, Single Record and Male Vocalist of the year. But entertainer of the year went to Hank Williams Jr. at the 22nd annual award ceremony that included a shoutout of perennial favorite Alabama. "Unbelievable," shouted Williams, who has been nominated many times for an award but has only won two of the trophies in his career. He is the son of country music legend Hank Williams. Reba McEntire, with two awards, was the only other entertainer to win multiple trophies, shaped like a cowboy hat.

S. Korean dissidents quit party to form new group

SEOUL (R) — Leading South Korean dissidents Kim Dae-jung and Kim Young-Sam said Wednesday they were forming a political party and accused the main opposition group of being manipulated by the government of President Chun Doo Hwan.

In a joint statement, they said the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) had failed to live up to the expectations of South Koreans because of a damaging feud over party leadership.

"We have now come to the conclusion that there is no way but to create a new opposition party," the Kims said.

The statement was read to reporters by Kim Young-Sam while his political twin was again under house arrest to prevent him attending the news conference. Kim Dae-jung remains barred from political activity because of his suspended 20-year jail term for sedition.

"We know clearly that today's internal dispute in the NKDP is not just an intra-party incident but also a result of manipulation policies by the Chun regime," the statement said.

The Kims, both former contenders for the South Korean presidency, helped set up the NKDP, which emerged as the main parliamentary opposition in the 1985 general election.

Kim Young-Sam told the news conference 74 of the NKDP's 90 members in the 274-member parliament had formally pledged to join a new party.

A power struggle in the opposi-

tion reached a climax last Saturday when more than 200 NKDP members stormed its Seoul headquarters demanding an end to the Kims' "dictatorship within the party for their personal presidential ambitions."

The NKDP has been virtually crippled since December when party President Lee Min-woo contravened orders from the Kims and hinted that the opposition could consider a draft constitution proposed by the government in exchange for greater democracy.

Mr. Chun's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) welcomed Lee's suggestion as a constructive effort to break the current confrontation between ruling and opposition parties over ways to choose a successor to the president.

Mr. Chun is due to stand down next February at the end of a seven-year term. An electoral college currently selects the president.

The Kims accuse Mr. Lee and various party factions critical of them playing into the hands of the government, which they say is bent on splitting any strong opposition to prolong its authoritarian rule.

In a separate development about 300 dissidents rallied Wednesday to protest what they called mistreatment and torture of political prisoners.

Police did not interfere with the rally, held indoors at the office of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy.

Pope calls for progress on social justice, human rights

MENDOZA, Argentina (R) — Pope John Paul II has warned Latin Americans that the consequences for the continent could be grave if economic development was not accompanied by progress in social justice and human rights.

"Can lasting peace exist in a world regulated by social, economic and political relations which favour one group or country to the detriment of others," he said during a prayer service for thousands of people in Mendoza, the centre of Argentina's wine-growing area.

In his speech, the Pope spoke out against divorce for the first time in Argentina, calling it degrading and dehumanising. The issue is controversial in the mostly Catholic country because of a law being debated that would legalise it.

He said Argentines would never find domestic peace if "families are divided and not capable

of overcoming conflicts in this basic cell of all social harmony."

"You know well how situations of conflict in certain areas of Latin America lend themselves to demagoguery, fruitless accusations, mutual recriminations and other attitudes do not always lead to positive solutions," he told the congregation at the outdoor meeting.

The Pope, who did not say which areas of Latin America he was referring to, said injustice was at the root of such conflicts.

"Can true peace exist when men, women and children can not live without their full human dignity?" he asked.

At least 9,000 people disappeared between 1976 and 1983 during the former military government's campaign against guerrillas and political opponents, and four years after the return of democracy, human rights is still a highly controversial issue in Argentina.

3 bodies recovered, 7 missing in New York bridge collapse

AMSTERDAM, New York (AP) — Rushing floodwaters kept divers from searching for as many as seven more victims of a sudden collapse of a highway bridge.

Three bodies already have been recovered.

Also, the National Transportation Safety Board on Tuesday began an investigation into Sunday's accident about 55 kilometres west of Albany on the New York State Thruway.

The bodies of a U.S. man and two men from Ontario, Canada, were recovered Sunday and Monday from the two Cadillacs that had dropped 25 metres into the creek. The U.S. victim's wife was

listed Tuesday as missing the couple was believed to have been driving to Texas.

Six other people were listed as missing.

A steady rain Tuesday sent the water level back up, allowing rescue workers to do little more than drag a portion of the creek. The current was too strong for divers, said state Police Lt. Michael Wright.

Officials have not pinpointed the cause of the collapse, but some engineering experts speculated that rushing floodwaters may have eroded soil and stone beneath the three-metre-thick concrete bridge supports.

Redman: U.S. aware of Japanese nuclear sentiments

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States is "aware of the special sentiments of the Japanese people in regard to nuclear weapons. We have faithfully honoured our commitments under the treaty of mutual cooperation and security with Japan and continue to do so," State Department spokesman Charles Redman has said.

He made the comments when questioned about an April 7 New York Times story which said that Japanese communists searching in the U.S. Library Congress have uncovered documentary evidence of a secret agreement that permits the United States to take nuclear arms into and out of Japan, but it reportedly does not allow the weapons to be stored in

Japan or launched from there.

"We are now in the process of checking the authenticity of the document" noted in the story, Mr. Redman said, adding that he was not in position to comment on its content.

He noted that Japanese Communist Party has "reportedly obtained information concerning the 1960 mutual security treaty which has long been in the public domain — that agreement is certainly not secret."

The spokesman repeated that the United States consistently maintains a worldwide policy "that we neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons aboard U.S. naval vessels."

7 policemen killed, 3 hurt in Filipino rebel ambush

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — Communist rebels ambushed a constabulary patrol, killing seven police officers and wounding three more during an hour-long gunbattle in south-eastern Luzon, the military said Wednesday.

Capt. Dong De Asis, military operations chief of Quezon province, said one trooper was unaccounted for after Tuesday's attack by the New People's Army (NPA). The attack occurred in Calsay-Uno municipality in Mauban town, 100 kilometres south east of Manila.

There was no report of rebel casualties.

Capt. De Asis said the troops were on their way back to camp from a nearby municipality where they had recovered the body of a slain paramilitary guard when they were fired on by an undetermined number of rebels.

The attack was the second major government loss in Quezon province since a 60-day nationwide ceasefire expired Feb. 8.

Quezon rebels killed 19 soldiers in an ambush on March 17 in the second highest loss to the government side in a single encounter since the insurgency began 18 years ago.

On Monday, the military said 645 people had been killed in insurgency-related clashes between Jan. 1 and March 31, including 208 soldiers, 262 rebels and 175 civilians.

In other developments, the military reported 14 Communist rebels were killed on Monday in a pair of clashes in Zamboanga Del Sur province 800 kilometres south east of the capital.

Meanwhile, a leftist leader has said Philippine Communist guerrillas might seek weapons from "revolutionary countries because of increasing U.S. involvement in the country's civil war."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin

FLAYTIME
By W. Russell McDowell

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Diagramless
19 X 19, by Martin J. De Wit

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19 X 19, by Martin J. De Wit

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